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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (07/10): Egyptian Efforts at
Mediation Continue; New Demolition Orders for East Jerusalem
Neighborhood

Main Stories:

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, Al-Quds, and Al-Ayyam all run front-page coverage of an Egyptian delegation that arrived in Ramallah July 9. The delegation conducted a series of meetings with officials of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas representatives in preparation for the next round of unity talks in Cairo. The delegation met with PA Presidency Secretary General Tayeb Abdel Rahim, who praised Egypt's role in supporting the Palestinian national dialogue, and stated that the priority for Palestinians is to end internal division and proceed with rebuilding Gaza. The delegation also met with Prime Minister Salam Fayyad on July 9, and will meet with President Mamhoud Abbas on July 10.

Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam run front page coverage of reports that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak expressed disappointment on the continued failure of a prisoner-exchange deal that would include the release of kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. Mubarak noted that an agreement had nearly been reached, but claimed that the deal failed due to the conditions set forth by Israel -- including the deportation of former Palestinian prisoners from the Palestinian Territories..

Al-Ayyam's front pages the statement issued by the G8 nations after their summit in Italy on July 9, which stated that the international community supports the peace process in the Middle East based upon the two-state solution. The statement also stressed that the international community has to bear responsibility in achieving a comprehensive and permanent peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Al-Ayyam reports on comments made by French President Nicolas Sarkozy in a press conference during the G8 summit in Italy on July

9 that Israel should not commit any unilateral attack against Iran. He also noted that Israel must understand that it is not alone in its conflict with Iran, and must use diplomacy in resolving the issue.

Al-Quds reports on more demolition orders issued by Jerusalem municipality for Palestinian houses located in the Al-Bustan neighborhood of Silwan (East Jerusalem). These notices, according to Palestinian Authority officials, will leave more than 1500 Palestinians homeless.

Al-Ayyam reports on its front page on the implementation by the United Nations Development Program/Program of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) of a project to rebuild the Gaza Strip following the January 2009 conflict. The project, which is expected to last one year, is valued at \$12 million dollars, with contributions from the Canadian and Swedish governments. The first phase of the project includes removing more than 240,000 tons of debris.

Al-Ayyam's front page reports that Benzion Netanyahu (father of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu) appeared on Israeli TV Channel 2 in an interview July 9 stating that when his son announced his acceptance of the two-state solution, he did not seriously mean it. Netanyahu's father also went on to state that his son had intentionally imposed strict conditions that could never be accepted by the Palestinians. -----

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Al-Quds, "What is Barak negotiating over?" (07/10): "Barak is

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negotiating over the expansion of settlement activities in the West Bank, although he knows that the settlements are illegitimate and will jeopardize the chances of achieving peace in the region... He does that in spite of its contradiction with the Labor party's agenda regarding settlements."

2) Mouhammad Yaghi, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, "A new tone in Hamas' discourse" (07/10): "Many reasons could be behind the change in Hamas' political discourse... Maybe its hard experience in Gaza and the West Bank, or its readiness to be open to the world and get recognition, or because it doesn't want to be blamed for letting another opportunity for achieving peace in the region during Obama's era go to waste... Hamas should keep up this tone towards ending the internal division."

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